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General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 26 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the official statement by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning the ratification by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, under item 74 of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**

* A/55/50.

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Annex to the letter dated 26 April 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Official statement by the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on the ratification by the State Duma of the Russian Federal Assembly of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

On 21 April 2000 the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation by an overwhelming majority adopted a Federal Act ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).

The ratification of the Treaty by the State Duma is further confirmation of the policy pursued by the Russian Federation with a view to strengthening the regime for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, disarmament and enhancing strategic stability throughout the world.

The community of nations has travelled a long road to achieve the comprehensive nuclear test ban. The journey from the Moscow partial test-ban treaty of 1963 to CTBT took nearly 40 years.

With the recent approval of the START II Treaty by both houses of the Russian Federal Assembly, the Russian Federation, as a major nuclear Power that has ratified CTBT, is demonstrating its responsibility towards the international community and its commitment to fulfilling its obligations in the area of enhancing strategic stability, arms reduction and disarmament, *inter alia* in the context of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). On the eve of the opening of the NPT Review Conference it is particularly necessary to stress the role of the Non-Proliferation Treaty as the most important factor in strengthening the regime for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

We are convinced that the prompt entry into force of CTBT and ensuring the universality of the Treaty are in the national interest of the Russian Federation and in the interest of all mankind. A comprehensive nuclear test ban and the adhesion of all States having nuclear potential to such a ban would erect an insurmountable barrier to any attempts to spread or improve them.

We once again appeal to all countries that have not yet signed or ratified CTBT to do so as soon as possible so that the goals set out in the Treaty can be realized in the near future.